

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 268167

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TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJECT: BELIZE

REFERENCES: A) STATE 266237

B) LONDON 17159

C) STATE 265647

SUMMARY--DEPTOFF IN LONG LUNCH WITH UK EMBASSY REP DAVID WALKER WENT OVER ENTIRE BELIZE SITUATION STRESSING POINTS IN REFTEL. ALSO DISCUSSED WAS LATEST GUATEMALAN NOTE TO OAS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER POINTED OUT TO WALKER POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE TO UK OF AN OAS OBSERVER MISSION TO BELIZE SHOULD GUATEMALA'S STATED INTENTION TO INVOKE RIO TREATY BE REALIZED--END SUMMARY.

1. DEPTOFF LUNCHEDED WITH DAVID WALKER OF UK EMBASSY HERE ON NOVEMBER 10 AT LATTER'S INVITATION. THE TWO HOUR LUNCH PROVIDED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 268167

OF THE PRESENT BELIZE SITUATION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE MOVES.

DEPTOFF TOUCHED EACH OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS IN REFERENCE TELEGRAM, EMPHASIZING PARTICULARLY THAT THE PERSONAL NOTION EXPRESSED BY FCO DUFF (PARAGRAPH 6, REFERENCE B) REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. LOBBYING TO CHANGE THE PRESENT UK/ CARIBBEAN RESOLUTION, WAS AN ABSOLUTE NON-STARTER AS FAR

AS WE WERE CONCERNED.

2. REGARDING THE UK MOVES THAT WE ARE RECOMMENDING BE TAKEN PRIOR TO PASSAGE OF THE UN RESOLUTION, WALKER ASKED WHETHER WE CONSIDERED SUBMISSION TO THE ICJ AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE IDEA OF AGREED UPON ECONOMIC AND SECURITY GUARANTEES OR WHETHER WE FELT THAT THE LATTER WOULD BE PART OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ICJ SUBMISSION. DEPTOFF SAID WE REGARDED THEM AS ALTERNATIVES ALTHOUGH GUATEMALANS PROBABLY WOULD ATTEMPT TO INSERT SOME REFERENCE TO EITHER ECONOMIC OR SECURITY MATTERS IN ANY NEGOTIATED TERMS OF REFERENCE TO THE ICJ. COMMENT: WALKER SEEMED MUCH MORE OPEN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ICJ THAN HE HAS IN NUMEROUS PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS DEPARTMENT HAS HAD WITH HIM ON THIS POINT.

3. DEPTOFF ALSO STRESSED THE OPINION SET OUT IN REFERENCE A), THAT THE PRESENCE IN NEW YORK OF THE BELIZEAN DELEGATION, INCLUDING THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION, REPRESENTED A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UK IF THEY WERE TO SEIZE IT QUICKLY. IN THIS CONNECTION DEPTOFF STRESSED THE ADVANTAGES OF NEW YORK OVER BELIZE AS A SITE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UK AND THE BELIZEAN DELEGATION ON FURTHER MOVES TO BE TAKEN WITH THE GUATEMALANS. WALKER REPLIED THAT ONE NEED NOT THINK ONLY OF NEW YORK OR BELIZE, THAT MIAMI OR NEW ORLEANS WERE ALSO POSSIBLE SITES FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. DEPTOFF AGREED.

4. DEPTOFF ADVISED WALKER OF A GUATEMALAN MOVE IN THE OAS (REFERENCE C) OF WHICH WALKER APPEARED TO HAVE HAD NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE. DEPTOFF STATED AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE GUATEMALAN NOTE HAD BEEN VERY CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO SET UP A TWO STEP PROCEDURE (I.E., NOTIFICATION OF "INTENTION" NOW TO BE FOLLOWED AT SOME LATER DATE BY

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 268167

ACTUAL INVOCATION OF ORGAN OF CONSULTATION). DEPTOFF SPECULATED THAT REASON FOR THIS LIKELY WAS DESIRE BY MOLINA AND HIS ADVISORS TO HOLD OUT, PRESUMABLY TO THE "HAWKS;" THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE MORE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE WALKER'S FIRST REACTION WAS THAT THE OAS HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER THE MATTER. HE INDICATED A DEGREE OF BITTERNESS (ACTUALLY HE USED A PITHIER PHRASE) ON THE PART OF THE UK WITH THE OAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THEY HAD NOT

BEEN GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS DESPITE SEVERAL REQUESTS AND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BELIZE ALSO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE OAS. DEPTOFF POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE THIS FACT THE OAS HAD PLAYED A HELPFUL ROLE IN 1972 IN SENDING OBSERVERS TO BELIZE, AND ASKED WALKER TO CONSIDER WHETHER SUCH A ROLE MIGHT NOT ALSO BE HELPFUL IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE GUATEMALANS CARRY THROUGH ON THEIR EXPRESSED

INTENTION TO INVOKE THE RIO TREATY. DEPTOFF MADE POINT THAT OBSERVERS IN PLACE IN BELIZE (WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT UK ACQUIESCENCE) WOULD BE A SERIOUS DETERRENT TO GUATEMALAN MILITARY MOVES PARTICULARLY IF THE OBSERVER MISSION AROSE OUT OF A GOG INITIATIVE. HE POINTED OUT FURTHER THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE UK, THE OBSERVERS COULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTEST TO THE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE NATURE OF UK DEPLOYMENT IN BELIZE. DEPTOFF ENDED BY SAYING THAT AN OAS OBSERVER MISSION--IF IT SHOULD COME TO THAT--CERTAINLY COULDN'T HARM THE UK'S POSITION AND MIGHT ACTUALLY PROVE OF BENEFIT AND ASKED THAT THE UK CONSIDER THIS MATTER. WALKER PROMISED TO PASS THESE OBSERVATIONS ON TO HIS GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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